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The Whole ART of
LEGERDEMAIN:

O R
FOCUS POCUS in Perfection.

which any person of the meanest Capacity
may perform the whole Art without a Teacher,
performed by the best Artist in the World

To which are added,
Several Tricks of CUPS and BALLS, &c.
As performed by the little Man without
Hands or Feet.

The wonderful Art of Fire Eating.



Printed and Sold at the PRINTING-OFFICE in
BOW-CHURCH YARD.

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INTRODUCTION

L EGERDEMAIN is an Opera whereby one may seem to work wonderful, impossible, and incredible Things a Nimblenejs and a Slight of Hand.

The Parts of this ingenious Art are principally four. viz.

1. In convenience of Balls.
2. In Conveyance of Money.
3. In Cards.
4. In confederacy.



A Discription of the Operator.

1. He must be of a bold and undaunted Resolution.
2. He must have strange Terms and emphatical Words.
3. He must use such gestures of Body, as may take off the Spectators Eyes, from a strict Observance of his Performance.

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The whole A R T of

LEGER DEMAIN

How to pass the BALL through the CUPS.

*Y*OU must place yourself at the farther end of the table, and provide yourself three CUPS made of tin, and your magic STICK to show wonders withal. Then you must provide four small cork BALLS, but let no more than three of them be seen on the table.

Note. Always conceal one BALL in the right hand, between the middle and ring finger; and be sure to make yourself perfect in holding it there; for by this means all the Tricks of the CUPS are done.

Lay your three BALLS on the table, then say, Gentlemen, you see here are three CUPS, and three BALLS, there is a CUP for each BALL, and a BALL for each CUP: Then taking that BALL you have in you right hand (which you always are to keep private) and clapping it under the first CUP, the taking one of the three BALLS, with the right-hand, and seem to put it in your left, but retain it in your right, shutting your left-hand in due time. Then say, Presto, be gone.

Then taking the second CUP up, say, Gentlemen, you see here is nothing under the CUP, then clapping BALL under your right-hand, seeming to put it in your left, but retain it in the right, saying, Vaude-
one.

Then taking the third CUP up, say Gentlemen, you see here's nothing under the Cup, then clap the BALL under your right-hand, and take the third BALL up with your right hand, seeming to put it into your left-hand, but retain it in your right. So shutting your left-hand in time, as before, say Presto make haste. So you have the three BALLS under the three CUPS.

Then with your right-hand take up the first CUP and then clap that BALL under, which you have in your right-hand. Then say Gentlemen, this being the first, I'll put it into my pocket; but you must keep it in your right-hand, to play with.

So take up the second CUP, with your right hand and then clap that BALL under, which you have concealed, and say, Presto, this also I put in my pocket.

Then take up the third CUP, and clapping the CUP down again, convey the BALL you have in your right hand, under the Cup; then take the third BALL and say, Gentlemen, this being the last BALL, I take and put this into my pocket likewise: Gentlemen, by my power of experience, I will command the three BALLS immediately under the CUPS again.

So lay them along the table, to the admiration of the Beholders.

Then taking up the first Cup, and clapping the BALL under you have in your right-hand, and then taking the first BALL with your right hand, seem to put the same into your left, but retain it in your right, saying, Vada, be gone when I bid you, and run under the CUP. Then taking that CUP up again, flinging that under in your right hand, take up the second BALL, seeming to put it in your left-hand but keep in your right-hand, saying, Gentlemen, see how the BALL runs on the Table! so flinging it away.

So taking the CUP up again, and clapping the BALL under again, as before, then taking the second BALL in your right hand, and seem to put it in your left, but keep it still in your right. Then with your left hand seem to fling into the cup.



Then taking the CUP up, and clapping that BALL under, which you have in your right-hand. Then taking up one of the three BALLS in your right hand, and seemingly put it into the left, and with the left seem to fling into the Air, saying, Begone.

Then take up the second CUP, and clap it upon the first. And in so doing be sure to leave the BALL there. Then take up the second BALL, with your right-hand, and seem to put it in your left, but keep it in your right, saying, Likewise this do I fling away.

Then take the third CUP and clapping it on the second, and leaving the BALL there that you have in your right-hand, take up the third BALL, and seem to put it into your left, but keep it still in your right hand. Then say, Gentle men, this being the last, I'll fling this away too. Now seeing they are all gone, I will command them all back and r into the CUPS.

How to show the Hen and Egg-Bag.

YOU must buy two or three yards of callicoe, or linen, or if you steal it it will be more like flight of hand) and make a double bag, and at the mouth on that side next you, make four or five purses, each of which you must put two or three eggs, and so do till you have filled that side next to you. And have a hole made at the end of the bag, that no more than two EGGS comes out at once. Then you must have another BAG like unto that exactly, that one must not be known from the other. And then put a live hen in that BAG, and then hang it on a Hook on that side the table you stand on. Then take one of the EGGS, and pretend to make it stick to the Ceiling. Then drop EGG-BAG, and nimbly shake the BAG with the Hen. This is a noble Fancy, well handled.

[Of Conveyance of Money.

THE Conveyance of money is not much inferior to the BALLS, but much easier to do, The principal Place to hold a piece of Money in, is just the Palm of the hand, and the best piece to keep the Tester, but with constant Exercise all will be able except the Money be very small, and then it is to be betwixt the Fingers, almost at the end, where the ball is to be kept below near to the Palm. The Money must not be of too small, nor too large Circumference, for hindering of the Conveyance

To Convey Money out of one of your Hands into the other.

FIRST, you hold open your Right hand, and lay therein a Teaster. Then lay thereon the middle Finger of your Left Hand, and use some Words. And on a sudden slip your Right Hand from your Finger wherewith you hold down the Tester still therein, and suddenly I say, drawing your Right Hand thro' your Left, you shall seem to have left the Tester there, especially if you shut in Time your Left Hand, which that it may more probably appear to be truly done, you may take a Knife, and seem to knock against it so as to make a great Sound. This is a Device by which both the Eye and Ear are deceived.

How to eat Fire, and blow it up in your Mouth with a Pair of Bellows.

ANOINT your Mouth with Liquid Storax, and you may put in a burning Pair of Tongs without hurting yourself, and lick them till they are cold, by the help of this Ointment, and by preparing your mouth. Thus you may take Wood Coals out of the Fire, and eat them as you would Bread dip them into Brimstone Powder, and the Fire seems more strange, but the Sulphur puts out the Coals and shutting your Mouth close, put out the Sulphur and so they commonly champ the Coals, and swallow.

hem, which they do without offending the Body. But if they were Bound to eat nothing else, it would be a sad Trade. If you put lighted Charcoal into your mouth, you may suffer a pair of Bellows to be



blowing continually, and receive no Hurt. But afterwards your mouth must be immediately cleansed, or it will cause a Salivation. 'Tis a dangerous thing to be done, and although those that practise it, use all means possible to prevent Danger, I never saw any of these Fire eaters who had a wholesome Complexion. The reason I could give, but it is known to the sons of Art. Some puts Bole-Almoniack into this Receipt, a cold Thing, and spoils the whole Composition. leaving out Hemaritis and Liquidiorax, but let them beware how they use it.

How to prevent Cheating at Cards and Dice.

BEWARE of Confederates, as well among the By-standers, as the Gamesters, especially be cautious of one that is simple or drunk; beware also of false Betters and Lookers-on, for while they bet on your side, and look on your Game without Suspicion, they discover it to your Adversaries, by Signs unobserved by you. Such a Confederacy might undo Hundreds of wealthy Men who are given to Gaming and nothing but the utmost Precautions can save from Ruin the Man who falls into the hands of these Harpies. Beware of false Dice, when you play at Hazard; for he who has the false Dice, when you play at Hazard; for he who has the false Dice when he finds a great deal of Money on the Table, nimbly changes the false Dice for the fair, and throws at all. The false and fair Dice appear exactly the same, and are not to be discovered from each other by a Novice.

To make a Card face to the Right and Left, and turn round twenty Times.

YOU must be sure to have a clean Pack of Cards and the Card you would have to leap, jump or turn round, you must stick a Needle between the Folds of Paper the Card is made of. Be sure you pass it over the Eye of the Needle, that no Part of it may

be seen. Then desire any Person to draw a Card, which you must contrive to be of the same sort, and let him put it into the Pack again. Then shuffle the Cards, and that Card which was drawn convey away. Now you must have a Loadstone in a handkerchief within your hand, so put your hand under the Table, the Cards lying on the Table, and as you move your Hand under the Table, the Card that the Needle is in will separate from the rest, and as you move your Hand, the Card the Needle is in will move the same Way.

To command a Card into an Egg.

TAKE a Pack of Cards and shuffle them, and desire any Person to take a Card which by your Contrivance you must know, and such another Card you must have put in the End of your Magick Stick which opens and shuts with a spring. Then having Three EGGS on a Plate, if the Company don't like the EGGS, let them provide Three themselves. Then ask which of the thee EGGS you must command the Card in. Then take the EGG they desire, and brake it with the End of the Stick, and the spring strikes the Card out of the Stick into the Egg without Discovery.



How to make a Card jump out of the Pack, and run upon the Table.

TAKE a Pack of Cards and let any one draw the Card they fancy, and afterwards put it in the Pack, but so as you know were to find it at your Pleasure. Then take a Piece of Wax, and put it under the thumb-nail of your Right-Hand, and there fasten a Hair to your Thumb, and the other End of the Hair to the Card then spread the Pack of Cards on the Table. Then by your Words of Charms seem to make it jump on the Table.

How to light a Candle by a Glass of Water or other Liquor.

You must take a Bit of Phosphorus about the Bigness of a Pin's Head, and with a Piece of Tallow stick it on the Edge of a Drinking Glass, and then take the Candle lighted, and blow it out, and apply it to the Glass, and it will immediately light. This is the Preparation that Mr. Cornwall used to set off his Three Cannons with. All very amazing to behold, for with this Preparation strange Sights may be done. You may write with it on Paper the terrible Words or other, and blowing out the Candle, it will seem terrible to the Beholders.

To cut a Glas. A famous Invention.

YOU must have a Piece of well-dry'd Match-
Cord, light it, that it may have a good Coal,
then take a Beer Bowl Glas, and hold the match to
the Edge of the Glas, have your Finger wet, and
it will suddenly crack, about a Quarter of an Inch
downwards. Then keep the Coal of the Match
the like Distance from the End of the Crack, and
as it follows, then move your Hand, and cut it
in a new Fashion, otherwise it will not hold together
till you have it thro' to the Bottom. When you
have done it, and it is cold, take it by the Foot, and
turn it downward, it will stretch so that you may
draw Ink out of it and not spill a drop.



How to command Seven Halspence through the
Table.



THIS Feat is one of the greatest the Jugglers have
and is inferior to none. To do this, you must
go to some German; or to one who knows how to
make Holes in Six of the same, and let 'em
make Holes wide enough for a penny to go in and
out, and then let them call for a penny on
them all, and so make 'em call for none car
tell 'em from true ones; and then to cover
the Halspence, and a Die for
use them. When you are the
Halspence, a Cap and a Die, the
performance is thus. Desire any one
to lend you seven Halspence, promising
to return them again. Then say Gentleman, this
is just made fit for your Money, then clapping
the Cap on, desire one of the Company to sing

Die, to see what they can fling, and in so doing, take off the Cap, and convey the Money which is false into the the Cap, so as the Company does not see it put in. Then with the Cap cover the Die, and with your Right-Hand take up the true Money and put it into your Left under the Table, saying Vada, begone, I command the Die to be gone, and the Money is come, so taking the true Money in the Right-Hand, and knocking under the Table making a Jingling as if the Money was just coming thro' the Table, say, There's the Money; and with your Right Hand take off the Cap, saying, There's the Die; so convey the false Money into your Lap, and say, There's the Cap likewise: This is an ingenious Feat, if well handled.



make the Card any one has draw to stick upon
the Ceiling of the Room.

TO do this, you must first have in Readiness, in
Private a little Soap, or the like. Then let any
draw a Card, then take this Card, and put it at
bottom of the Pack. Then shuffle the Cards
you know how, 'till it comes to the Bottom
in. Then sling it upon the Top, and put a Bit
Soap on the Back of it, and so toss up the Card
the Ceiling of the Room, and the noted Card
then stick with its Face downwards: Then
let it down quick, for Fear of a sudden Dis-
covery.

Now to play at Cups and Balls without Hands as
performed by the short Man.

FIRST, you must provide six Cups of one Size
and Metal (Persons with hands require but three)
keep three of them concealed in your Jugling-
bag, till Occasion requires you to bring them out.
The Dexterity performed by the three first Cups
thus. Take out of your Bag your three Cups
set them on the Table or Board, you must have
Bits of Cork provided and concealed, but on
all must be on the Table. Then say, Gentlemen
and Ladies, turning up your three Cups (tho' at
the same Time you must have a Ball concealed

You see there's nothing under my Cups, I take and put this Cup there, I put the Second there, and I put the Third there. The Ball you have hid must be clapt the Time you are placing your Cups under one of them. You must have a Tin Bottom in the Inside of one of your Cups, and Holes punch'd in it like a Grater. Then say, Gentlemen (taking the Ball off the Table, placing it on the Cup the Ball is under) observe I cover this Ball with this Cup, clapping the third Cup on the other two, then say, Presto, I command the Ball from under the middle Cup to the Bottom; Then taking off the first and second Cups, the Ball they think is gone to the Bottom; Whereas the Ball that's laid on the Top of the undermost sticks fast to the Grater as covers it, and when the Cup is turn'd up it's the Ball as was convey'd at first that appears. Next Place, take the Ball as is on the Table, and say Gentlemen, the e's but one Ball le't, clapping the Cup to the Tin Bottom where the Ball is conceal'd, over that Ball on the Table so as the Ball that was sticking to the Tin falls down, and makes two: then clapping the Cup down convey another Ball you've secured and and say, Vada, come then say, Gentlemen and Ladies, there are three Balls, and three Cups, first having secured two Balls (having some strange Gestures of Body and Speech to take of the Eyes of the Spectators, as I told you in the third Description of the Artist) at the same Time taking up one of the Cups, clapping it down on one off the Balls with the two Balls you have secured; then clap the second Cup on the Second Ball, and the Third Cup on the Third Ball. Now say I have cover'd the three Balls. Then turn up one Cup, and say here is the First Ball, then turn up the other, say

g, here is the Second Ball. Then take up either
the Balls, and lay it on the Top of the Third
ur, and cover it with the Cup that has the Tin
ottom, clapping the Third Cup on the Top of
e other two; then say Gentlemen, there is one
the middle, and and the Third and last Ball I
rike thro' the Board, saying, Presto, be gone.
ow you must understand, the Third Ball you
op, the Second Sticks to the Tin Grater, and
ree Balls appear under the lowermost Cup, then
ace your three Balls on the Table, and your
ups opposite the Balls, then say, I cover this Ball
ith this Cup, I cover the Second Ball with this
up, and I cover the Third Ball with this Cup.
Then turning up one Cup, take up the Ball and
y, Presto, I command you under the Second Cup,
ut at the same time you must retain the Ball: for
e ball sticking to the Tin is dropped, and makes
wo; then clapping the Cup down with the Ball
at you have retain'd, turn up the Cup, and say,
ll strike this Ball, to the other two, and drop that
all, being Three before. Next place the Balls
nd Cups as they were before. Then clap the First
up on the First Ball, and the Second. Then take
o the Cup with the Grater, which generally is in
e Middle, saying, I'll put this Cup in my Bag.
nd take up the Ball, saying, I'll put this Ball in
my Bag, taking up the next, say, I'll put this
all in my Bag too, clapping under the Cup at the
me time the Ball you had retained. At last say I
all have too many Balls, or something to that
urpose, seem in a Fury, and toss your Cups away:
en put 'em in your Juggling Bag, that when you
ew the other Three, the Company may think they
re the first Cups.

To fill a Measure of Corn and cover it with a Cap and make it come under one of your Cups, with a live Bird under the other ; and an Orange under the third.

NOW you must take out the three Cups you have in your Bag, and place them on the table the Company thinks they are the first three Cups you have been shewing and you must have a Bag with Corn and a Measure in it. Then take and fill your Measure, but it must be the wrong End you fill. So cover the measure, and when you cover it, turn the measure up-side down, as you may easily do by taking it off, and saying, that this Measure of Corn must come under one of the three Cups ; then perhaps the Company desire you to shew your Cups, which you may do. So then lift up your Cups, one after another, and all the Company thinks nothing is there, by reason they see nothing. So then you desire some Acquaintance to let you know which Cup the Wheat must be under. He says, under such : No replies you, Here it is. Then taking up the Cup, you see as much Wheat as the said Measure can hold, which is kept in the Top of the Cup, with a round Piece of Sole Leather made for the Purpose, and when the Cup is clap'd down hard, the Leather comes down, and the Wheat covers it. This Trick astonishes the Beholders. The Second Cup has an Orange under it, which sticks to a Spike in the Top of the Cup and by clapping the Cup down it falls to the Bottom.

The Third Cup has a live Bird conceal'd, by Hei
of a Piece of Copper in the Cup, and opens by a
spring like a Tobacco-box, by squeezing of the
Cup, the Spring opens, and the Bird will jump out.
These Tricks of Dexterity have made several Per-
sons believe they were done by Magic Art.



How to Light a Candle which was never lighted before.

TAKE some Phosphorus, and put it with a Bit of Tallow to the wick of the Candle. Then take a Pipe-stopper, or Knife, and make them hot, and hold it unto the Candle, and you may light it, which will be admirable to the Spectators.

To set a Piece of Paper on Fire.

TAKE some Phosphorus, and lay it up in a Piece of Paper, and rub it between your Fingers and Thumbs, and it will take Fire immediately.

To shew a Trick with a Funnel.

YOU must get a double Funnel, that is two Funnels folder'd one in another; so you may at the small End pour in any Quantity of Wine, Water or any other Liquor. This Funnel must be ready-fill'd before hand with whatever Liquor you please, and call for some of the same kind. Then draw your Funnel, and setting your Middle Finger to the Bottom of it, bid some body, or else do it yourself, pour it full, and drink it up before hem, and turn the broad End of the Funnel down

ards, saying, Gentlemen, all is gone. And in a
 vice turn about, and in turning pronounce some
 terms of Art. Withdraw your Finger from the
 row End, and let the Liquor out between the
 nnels, and it will seem to be what you drank out
 the Funnel; And so you may persuade them
 it is the same.

an excellent Feat to make a Two-penny Piece li
 Plain in the Palm of the Hand, and to pass it from
 thence when you list.

UT some red Wax, not too much, on the nail
 of your longest Finger, then lit a Strange
 a-Twopeny Piece in the Palm of your Hand.
 and shut your Fist suddenly, and convey the Two
 penny Piece upon the Wax, which with Ue yo
 ay so accomplish, as no Man shall perceive it. I
 e Intrim use words of course, and suddenly ope
 our Hand, and the beholders will wonder, wher
 is gone: So then shut your Hand suddenly again
 and lay a wager whether it's there or no, and yo
 ay leave it or take it as you please. This feat
 well handled has more Admiration than any o
 feat of the Hand. Memorandum, This may
 be done by putting the Wax on the Two pen
 ny Piece, but then you must put it in your Hand yo
 urself.



To seem to turn Water into Wine.

TAKE four Beer Glasses, rub one in the Inside with a Piece of Allom, let the second have a Drop of Vinegar in it, the Third empty, and the Fourth as much Water as your Mouth can hold. Have a clean Rag, with Ground Brasil tied close to it. The Bulk must be no bigger than a small Nut, which must lie between your hinder Teeth. Then take off the Water out of the Glass, into your Mouth and return it into the said Glass which has the Drop of Vinegar in it, which causes it to have the perfect Colour of Sack. Then turn it into your Mouth again, and chew the Rag of Brasil between your Teeth, and squirt the Liquor in the Glass, and it will have the perfect Colour and Smell of Claret. Returning the Brasil into its former Place, take the Liquor into your Mouth again, and presently squirt it into the Glass you rubbed with Allom, and it will have the perfect Colour of Mulberry-Wine.



To make Sport with an Egg.

IF you're drinking in Company with whom you are disposed to make merry, have a Pennyworth of Quicksilver in a Quill seal'd at both Ends, then cause an Egg to be roasted or boil'd, and take off a Bit of the shell of the narrow End, then thrust in your Quill of Quicksilver, and lay the Egg on the Ground, and you shall have Sport enough; for 'twill not leave Tumbling so long as there's Heat in it: So likewise, if you put Quicksilver in a Sheep's Bladder, and blow it up, if you have a Mind for Sport, warm the Bladder, and fling it on the Ground, and it will jump as if it was bewitch'd.

How to call for any Card in the Pack.

TAKE the Cards and shuffle 'em, laying the Face downwards, and drawing the upper Card, say, Here I call for the Card of good Luck, and when you have seen the Card, which you must do privately, and be sure not let the Company see it. Then say, Here I call for,—naming your Card of good Luck, and so take off the uppermost Card, and having seen it, say, Here I call for the—naming the Card you took up last, and so you may proceed till you have finished the Pack. Having thus gone round with as many as you please, take them from the Table, saying, Look now in your Paper, see

which Card I call for first, and which second, which third, &c. and whilst he is looking, slip the Card of good Luck under the Bottom of the Pack : Then holding the Cards with their Faces upwards, take them off one by one, and they will come in the same Orders as you call'd them, only the last Card will not be set down in the Paper, and you must pretend it was the Card of good Luck.

How to make divers Forms of a sheet of Paper.

TAKE a Sheet of Paper, fold both Edges half-way, then fold 'ent back again, then cross it full of very narrow Folds, and by often using it, you may turn it into Pies, Arches, Curry-combs, &c.

Strange Arts are herein taught by Slight of Hand
 With which you may divert yourself or Friend.
 The like in Print was never seen before,
 So you must say, now You have read it o'er.

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FINIS



